



ARM's unmanned aerospace vehicle collected heat radiation data over Oklahoma.

GNAT Gathers New Atmospheric Data

A milestone in atmospheric research was reached with first-of-their-kind flights of the GNAT unmanned aerospace vehicle from the U.S. Dept. of Energy's Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) program. This multi-partner project seeks new data on global warming and aims to improve weather forecasting.

The tests, which employed infrared radiometers and other instrumentation, were designed primarily to obtain clear sky baseline measurements. A future goal is to determine how sunlight and Earth's thermal radiation interact with clouds.

"The scientists who provided the instruments said their measurements from GNAT provided data never before obtained, with very high degrees of accuracy," says program technical director John Vitko of Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, N.M.

More information: **Circle 305**